

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03883 01 OF 02 121345Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 HA-05 MCT-01  
A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 FBOE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05  
SSM-03 NEAE-00 /102 W  
-----106753 121402Z /40

O P 121300Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8665  
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM  
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG  
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER  
COMSIXTHFLT  
CTF SIX ZERO  
CTF SIX ONE  
CTF SIX TWO  
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 3883

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE  
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: JULY 12, 1200 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 3858 (DTG 111100Z JUL 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS STILL NOT WITHDRAWN  
HIS THREAT TO RESIGN (EXCEPT ACCORDING TO IRAQI NEWS AGENCY).  
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SPEAKER KAMAL ASAD REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT  
HAFIZ AL-ASAD A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD ALLOW  
THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT WHILE THE INCUMBENT IS STILL  
IN OFFICE. THE CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO GENERALLY HOLD, BUT  
CHRISTIANS ARE HARASSING SYRIAN POSITIONS WITH SMALL ARMS  
FIRE. LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF) TOOK UP POSI-  
TIONS AT THE QARANTINA BRIDGE IN EAST BEIRUT. PIERRE

GEMAYEL CALLED ON SYRIANS TO STOP THEIR PRESS ATTACKS ON THE RIGHTIST PARTIES. ISRAELI PLANES REPORTEDLY FLEW OVER SOUTH LEBANON. END SUMMARY.

2. RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS APPARENTLY STILL NOT WITHDRAWN HIS THREAT TO RESIGN. ACCORDING TO L'ORIENT-LE JOUR ON JULY 11, HE WILL ANNOUNCE HIS FINAL DECISION WITHIN 48 HOURS. THE IRAQI NEWS AGENCY ON JULY 12 CLAIMED THE PRESIDENT HAD WITHDRAWN HIS RESIGNATION, HOWEVER.

3. KAMAL ASAS VISITS DAMASCUS.

HOUSE SPEAKER KAMAL ASAD MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFIZ AL-ASAD IN DAMASCUS ON JULY 11. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE CITED "RELIABLE SOURCES" AS SAYING THE SPEAKER AND THE PRESIDENT HAD DISCUSSED MEASURES THAT MUST BE TAKEN TO AVOID A "CONSTITUTIONAL VACUUM" IN CASE SARKIS RESIGNS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SOURCES SAID THAT SPEAKER ASAD'S PLAN TO FORM AN "ANTI-PARTITION" PARLIAMENTARY BLOC (ANNOUNCED JULY 10) WAS AIMED AT GUARANTEEING A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY THAT SHOULD ADOPT A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ALLOWING THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT WHILE THE INCUMBENT IS STILL IN OFFICE.

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4. CEASE-FIRE STILL SHAKY.

A. ALTHOUGH THE UNEASY CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY, MARINE SECURITY GUARDS AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE REPORTED THAT CHRISTIANS IN THE AYN AR-RUMMANEH AREA HARRASSED SYRIAN POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE DAY ON JULY 11 WITH SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE SYRIANS GENERALLY REFRAINED FROM RESPONDING TO THE CHRISTIAN PROVOCATIONS, THE MSG'S REPORTED. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE AMERICAN JOURNALIST, CIVILIANS ARE CONTINUING TO EVACUATE ASHRAFIYAH, IN SOME CASES WITH HELP FROM PHALANGE, WHO ARE REINFORCING THEIR POSITIONS.

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O P 121300Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8666

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 3883

B. ACCORDING TO A PHALANGE POLITBURO MEMBER, FOLLOWING PLAN HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR MAINTAINING CEASE-FIRE : (1) STATIONING OF LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES AT QARANTINA BRIDGE; (2) OPENING OF SHOPS IN ASHRAFIYAH; (3) PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF CHRISTIAN MILITIA AND SYRIAN ADF UNITS; (4) PARTIAL REPLACEMENT OF SYRIAN ADF UNITS IN EAST BEIRUT BY LEBANESE FORCES (SEPTTEL).

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5. ISF TAKES UP POSITION.

A. IN A POSITIVE MOVE, ON JULY 11 MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES TOOK UP POSITIONS ON THE QARANTINA BRIDGE, AN IMPORTANT LOCATION IN EAST BEIRUT. ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES, THE SYRIAN ADF UNITS HAVE NOT LEFT THE AREA, HOWEVER, AND NO CARS ARE RISKING CROSSING THE BRIDGE. L'ORIENT-LE JOUR ON JULY 11 REPORTED THAT CHRISTIAN MILITIA HAD WITHDRAWN SLIGHTLY FROM SOME POSITIONS IN EAST BEIRUT TO ALLOW THE SYRIAN ADF UNITS TO RESUPPLY THEMSELVES WITH FOOD AND

WATER.

B. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER RELIABLE AMERICAN JOURNALIST, THREE TRUCKLOADS OF FOOD AND WATER GOT THROUGH TO SURROUNDED SYRIAN POSITIONS IN ASHRAFIYAH ON JULY 10. TRUCK THAT WAS BLOWN UP (SEE PREVIOUS SITREP) WAS FORTH AND LAST TRUCK WHICH TRIED TO REACH SYRIAN POSITIONS.

6. GEMAYEL ANSWERS SYRIANS.

PIERRE GEMAYEL ON JULY 11 CALLED ON SYRIA TO STOP ITS PRESS ATTACKS ON THE PHALANGE AND THE NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTIES. GEMAYEL FOUND "VERY STRANGE" THE CHARGE THAT THE PHALANGISTS ARE THE ENEMIES OF LEBANON AND EXPRESSED GREAT "DISTRESS" AT SYRIAN PRESS COMMENTS WHICH HE SAID ARE "NOT WORTHY OF A CIVILIZED NATION."

7. ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS.

ISRAELI FIGHTERS FLEW OVER WIDE AREAS OF SOUTH LEBANON ON JULY 11, CAUSING SONIC BOOMS OVER SIDON, ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS. ISRAELI GUNBOATS WERE CONSTANTLY PATROLLING OFF THE SOUTH LEBANESE COAST, THE PRESS SAID. PARKER  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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Declassified/Released  
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20 Mar 2014  
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